A multi-pronged approach is adopted to prevent occurrence of plague involving improvement of environmental sanitation, rodent and vector control by using insecticides, increasing public awareness etc. The continuous surveillance of plague has helped in preventing its occurrence. The States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal have established State Plague Surveillance units at Rohru and Uttarkashi, respectively with technical help extended by National Institute of Communicable Diseases. Integrated Diseases Surveillance Project has been launched in November, 2004 to improve the existing surveillance activities of various diseases, including plague.

Modernisation of NIMS and SVRIMS

1903. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to release Rs. 170 crores for modernization of the NIMS and the Sri Venkateshwara Rao Institute of Medical Sciences (SVRIMS); and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), *inter alia* there is a proposal for upgradation of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad and Sri Venkateshwara Rao Institute of Medical Sciences (SVRIMS), Tirupati with a total outlay of Rs. 180 crore approximately to the level of proposed All MS like Institution. The PMSSY Scheme has been cleared by the Expenditure Finance Committee and Committee of Secretaries (CoS) and is being processed for placing before Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for approval.

Hand-Foot and mouth disease in children

1904. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether studies were initiated on the outbreak of a rare child disease